Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4 through 6 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/400,162, filed March 25, 2003, now abandoned which is a continuation of U.S Application No. 09/835,001, filed April 13, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,558,702.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 6 through 25 with the following amended paragraph:

The excipient can also be a metal cation component which is separately dispersed within the polymer matrix. This metal cation component acts to modulate the release of the biologically active agent and is not complexed with the biologically active agent. The metal cation component can optionally contain the same species of metal cation, as is contained in the metal cation stabilized biologically active agent, if present, and/or can contain one or more different species of metal cation. The metal cation component acts to modulate the release of the biologically active agent from the polymer matrix of the sustained release composition and can enhance the stability of the biologically active agent in the composition. A metal cation component used in modulating release typically comprises at least one type of multivalent metal cation. Examples of metal cation components suitable to modulate release include or contain, for example, $Mg(OH)_2$, $MgCO_3$ (such as $4MgCO_3.Mg(OH)_2.5H_2O$), $MgSO_4$, $Zn(OAc)_2$, $Mg(OAc)_2$, $ZnCO_3$ (such as $3Zn(OH)_2 2ZnCO_3)ZnSO_4$, $ZnCl_2$, $MgCl_2$, $CaCO_3$, $Zn_3(C_6H_5O_7)_2$ and $Mg_3(C_6H_5O_7)_2$. A suitable ratio of metal cation component to polymer is between about 1:99 to about 1:2 by weight. The optimum ratio depends upon the polymer and the metal cation component utilized. A polymer matrix containing a dispersed metal cation component to modulate the release of a biologically active agent from the polymer matrix is further described in U.S. Patent No. 5,656,297 to Bernstein *et al.* and ~~co-pending~~ U.S. Patent No. 5,912,015 to Bernstein *et al.* ~~Application 09/056,566 filed on April 7, 1998~~, the teachings of both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.